**Dorothy Briscoe**

**Interviewed January 2021**

Joanna

What was your daily routine prior to COVID? What did your day look like before?

Dorothy

Went to work.

Joanna

Okay, when did you work? What hours?

Dorothy

8:30 to 3:30.

Joanna

What were some of the other things that you did prior to COVID?

Dorothy

I mean, we stay home.

Joanna

You guys would try new restaurants and movies, right?

Dorothy

Oh yeah, we would try different restaurants and go to the movies.

Joanna

Was there anything else that you wanted to add in? How would you get to work?

Dorothy

I had to catch the SEPTA bus.

Joanna

The SEPTA bus, yeah. Now it's all different, right? Was there anything else that you wanted to add to your daily routine?

Dorothy

No.

Joanna

How has COVID impacted your life now?

Dorothy

One day I wait for the COVID to clear.

Joanna

To clear, what do you mean by clear?

Dorothy

That means you don't have to wear no mask.

Joanna

Ok, so right now one of the things that has impacted your life is you wearing a mask out in public?

Dorothy

Yeah. And then it's hard to breathe.

Joanna

Was there anything else that has impacted your life due COVID?

Dorothy

No.

Joanna

No? Do you want me to remind you of some of their answers?

Dorothy

Yep.

Joanna

Ok. So you did share that you had different staff coming in. Can you talk about that?

Dorothy

Oh, yeah. Then they had to change the staff outward because of this COVID-19.

Joanna

Yeah. And you've had different staff come in, right?

Dorothy

Yeah.

Joanna

Yeah. So you don't have your normal staff. One of the other things that you mentioned is shopping. Can you explain how you shop now during COVID?

Dorothy

When I go, I go shopping. But I don't like nobody else to go shopping for me. But when I let somebody else go shopping, when they went they come back, they bring the wrong stuff.

Joanna

So now that you're not shopping for yourself during this time, do you go out as frequently as you normally would?

Dorothy

No.

Joanna

What are some other things that you do? Do you wipe down everything when you get home?

Dorothy

The kitchen, the floor, and the bathroom.

Joanna

And everything that you purchased? Right?

Dorothy

Yes.

Joanna

Yeah, okay. There was one other thing that you mentioned. You talked about not seeing your friends from workshop. Can you talk about that?

Dorothy

I'll be running into some of my coworkers at the workshop. And then some I don't go see at the workshop.

Joanna

You were very connected with one of the ladies that worked there, right? That was your mother?

Dorothy

Yes, mom.

Joanna

Yeah.

Dorothy

And then I got closer to my supervisor.

Joanna

There you go. Was there anything else you wanted to add?

Dorothy

And then I got closer to another supervisor.

Joanna

There you go. Do you want to just expand on that anymore or go to the next question?

Dorothy.

I'll go to the next one.

Joanna

What challenges have you faced and will you face due to COVID-19? Do you want me to help you with some of the answers you gave?

Dorothy

Yep.

Joanna

Okay. So the first one you talked about was wearing a mask.

Dorothy

Always wear that.

Joanna

Yeah. You always have to pack it, right?

Dorothy

Yeah, you might go to the grocery market. Go to the doctor's office.

Joanna

Something else you talked about was how your daily routine has now changed. Was there anything else you wanted to expand on?

Dorothy

Oh yeah, then I used to get up in the morning and go out the door and go to the workshop. Then I had this, that's my routine.

Joanna

Yeah. And then you talked about how since you aren't doing your workshop routine anymore, you're not having a paycheck come in.

Dorothy

They have no paycheck come in.

Joanna

So now you rely on what?

Dorothy

My spending money.

Joanna

You're spending money from Advocacy Alliance. Right?

Dorothy

Yep.

Joanna

Yeah. So you don't have extra spending money due to COVID and the workshop being closed, right?

Dorothy

Yeah.

Joanna

Ok. Is there anything else you wanted to add?

Dorothy

No.

Joanna

What are your concerns for the future?

Dorothy

The future is waiting for this to get over with, then it says move.

Joanna

What do you mean by move?

Dorothy

This COVID-19 is holding me up. I wanted to move.

Joanna

You want to find a new apartment, right?

Dorothy

Yeah.

Joanna

And that's been paused due to COVID.

Dorothy

Because then they going to tell you can't go look in the new apartment because it's COVID-19.

Joanna

You're right. Something else that you mentioned for this question is that you feel that it won't ever go away. What do you mean by that?

Dorothy

It needs to go away.

Joanna

But do you want to expand a little bit more of what your worries are on it not going away?

Dorothy

Because people get sick.

Joanna

People get sick, you have to continue wearing a mask, right?

Dorothy

And I don't care where you're going at, going to the doctor's, go to the market, that's all you have to grab is the mask.

Joanna

Yeah. Was there anything else you wanted to talk about your concerns for the future?

Dorothy

They need to hurry up.

Joanna

Hurry up and go?

Dorothy

Yes. And then you hurry up. And then people can breathe without the masks.

Joanna

What are your hopes for the future?

Dorothy

That's what it is. Hurry up, I want to move.

Joanna

You want to move? And you, what? And again, talking about the mask?

Dorothy

And then nobody has to keep grabbing it out the door.

Joanna

And you're hoping to also return back to work, right?

Dorothy

Yes.

Joanna

Yeah. Then the last question that we came up with together, what is something good that has come from COVID?

Dorothy

That I haven't got the COVID yet.

Joanna

Which is good. That is very good. What are some other things that have been really good?

Dorothy

Go shopping myself.

Joanna

Go shopping yourself. And then you also talked about during this time that you've been saving money, right?

Dorothy

Yeah. Because I can't go out because of this COVID-19.

Joanna

Yeah. So you've actually been doing really well with saving your money, which is good. You also talked about having a stronger relationship with your sister. Can you talk about that?

Dorothy

This is the first time I ever lived with my twin sister. They're my twin, because of this COVID-19 me and my sister is close.

Joanna

What drew you guys together to be closer? Can you tell us examples?

Dorothy

We sat right in the apartment.

Joanna

Yeah, she sits with you. What else do you do with your sister?

Dorothy

Go out with each other.

Joanna

You also shared that you are now cooking more, right?

Dorothy

Yeah.

Joanna

Yeah.

Dorothy

I do the cooking, my sister doesn't. My sister waits for me.

Joanna

But you guys are now cooking more since you are stuck in the house. Which is good, right?

Dorothy

Yep. I started cooking after my mom passed.

Joanna

Yeah, but you got better with it, too. And you've been trying new things, right?

Dorothy

Yeah.

Joanna

One of the other things that you said for something that's good coming out of COVID is that you felt like your relationships with your staff have gotten better, right? Can you talk about that?

Dorothy

Some.

Joanna

Some? Ok, can you talk about that?

Dorothy

Now, one of my staff I'm glad she back.

Joanna

And you grew closer to her right during this time?

Dorothy

Yes.

Joanna

Was there anything else that you wanted to add, Dorothy?

Dorothy

No. They say when I don't cook, she cooks.

Joanna

There you go. I think that was all that we had on our end. Kelly. Is there anything else that you wanted Dorothy to talk about? We can maybe expand on any of the answers that she had given me.

Kelly

Thanks so much to both of you. I was curious to learn more about your job, Dorothy and what you did. The job was at the workshop, is that right?

Dorothy

Before I came to the workshop, I had all different kinds of jobs.

Joanna

Can you talk about some of the projects that you worked on there?

Dorothy

At the workshop? We would be at the candles. What else.. We did this stuff when we put the stickers on, like for Christmas.

Joanna

Yeah, you guys put together a lot of baskets for QVC. Right?

Dorothy

Yeah.

Joanna

That was it? You guys just worked on baskets?

Dorothy

Baskets, candles.

Kelly

What was it like working there?

Dorothy

It's alright.

Joanna

Do you want to expand on your answer?

Kelly

What made it just alright?

Dorothy

Sometimes you get paid, sometimes you don't.

Joanna

Yeah. Do you want to talk about how you were paid? Do you want to explain how that worked?

Dorothy

When you get paid, the supervisor had to count the pieces. When we did the biggest is when we would get paid. We would be doing the labels.

Joanna

Yeah. So Kelly, just to try and explain. They would get paid based on the number of baskets they would put together. So if they made 10 baskets that day, they would get paid for putting together 10 baskets. So their paychecks would always fluctuate based on how many things they created.

Kelly

And I think I missed the last thing that Dorothy said about the baskets.

Dorothy

We would put on the labels.

Kelly

Did you have other jobs besides the workshop before COVID?

Dorothy

Yeah.

Joanna

So she only had the workshop job right before COVID. She did have other previous work jobs in the past, but nothing besides the workshop at the time.

Kelly

So Dorothy, do you miss going to the workshop?

Dorothy

(laughs) Absolutely not.

Kelly

You said absolutely not? You don't miss going there?

Dorothy

No.

Kelly

I see.

Dorothy

Nobody wants to go there. Sometimes we have work, and sometimes we don't have work. Nobody wants to get up and you just sit there all day.

Joanna

Yeah, so there would be days that you wouldn't get paid, right?

Dorothy

Yeah.

Kelly

So you would show up sometimes, and there wasn't work but you would show up anyway?

Dorothy

Mmhmm. And then I'd have to call my supervisor and ask if I can go home.

Kelly

I see.

Dorothy

Someone might come and pick me up early.

Kelly

Are there any things that you do miss about what life was like before COVID-19 happened?

Dorothy

I like to get up and, you know I'll be honest and tell you the truth, I miss going to workshops and I miss some of my coworkers. I miss some, not all.

Kelly

Do you see fewer people now? Are there fewer people in your life now than there were before?

Dorothy

No, sometimes I see some of my family, not all of them. Before this COVID-19 I did go see one of my cousins, and that's it.

Joanna

Do you miss seeing your friends from your workshop?

Dorothy

Yeah.

Joanna

Yeah, you were close to a lot.

Dorothy

I miss some of my coworkers. Sometime I'll be talking to them on the phone.

Kelly

Why is there no more workshop to go to?

Dorothy

The workshop shut down because of COVID-19.

Kelly

I see, there's no more workshop. Nobody's going?

Dorothy

Nope. Everybody has to stay home.

Kelly

I see.

Dorothy

And then I'll be talking to my supervisor. I be talking to her and talking to like, maybe two of my coworkers. That's it.

Kelly

Do you think the workshop will come back after COVID-19?

Dorothy

It probably is, because nobody wants to sit in there wearing the mask.

Kelly

Thank you so much for letting me ask a couple more questions so that I could learn a little bit more about that one piece. Joanna, is there anything else for you that you think wasn't captured in this interview? Or that you think people might want to know more about?

Joanna

Hmm, good question.

Dorothy

Oh, I got one more.

Joanna

Okay, go ahead, Dorothy.

Dorothy

This agency that they're with now, I bless them.

Joanna

Can you explain why?

Dorothy

Because when the other agency see what I used to deal with before the COVID-19 they were teaching us right.

Joanna

Yeah. So the way Dorothy explained it to me yesterday is she feels that Values Into Action gave her her independence back. Do you want to talk a little bit about that? What did you just do back in November for the first time?

Dorothy

Shopping.

Joanna

No, remember we did the mail-in ballot? Do you want to talk about that?

Dorothy

Yeah, Joanna got us voting.

Joanna

For the first time, right?

Dorothy

Yes.

Joanna

Yeah, so that was a big highlight during COVID. She was able to practice her freedom of speech and vote.

Kelly

Wow! Can you tell me about what that was like?

Dorothy

I didn't ever vote.

Kelly

Did you do a mail vote? Or did you go in person?

Dorothy

No, Joanna helped me do a mail-in ballot.

Kelly

So you were able to do it right from home?

Dorothy

Yeah, and then she dropped it off for me.

Joanna

She was very proud that who she voted for was the one that won and she said.. Go ahead, tell me what you told me. That the only reason he won was because you voted for the first time, right?

Dorothy

Yep. I picked him out to vote. I didn't pick the other one. Nope, no no. I was glad the day he won. I was watching on TV. I was watching on TV and I was crying.

Kelly

What were you watching on TV that made you cry?

Dorothy

Joe Biden was talking and I heard them say he won.

Kelly

And why did that make you cry?

Dorothy

Because I got my wish.

Kelly

Dorothy, do you think you'll vote the next time you have a chance to?

Dorothy

Yeah, if Joanna will help me.

Joanna

I sure will.

Kelly

Wow that was really nice to hear about, thanks for sharing that extra piece.

Dorothy

You're welcome.

Kelly

Joanna or Dorothy, is there anything else that you want to share?

Dorothy

Nope.

Joanna

No, I think that covered pretty much her life through COVID, before and after.

Kelly

Well, thank you so much.

Dorothy

You're welcome.

Kelly

So that'll be the end of the interview.